

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 04342 061113Z
ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2767

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS RABAT 4342

AMMAN PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY AND AMBASSADOR ANDERSON

USIA FOR INA IOR IPS IBS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN MO

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - VANCE TRIP IN MOROCCAN PRESS,
AUGUST 6, 1977

SUMMARY. FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF SYRIAN POSITION ON WORKING
GROUP TALKS RAISES SOME HOPE IN PRO-GOVERNMENT PRESS, BUT
OPPOSITION PAPERS CONTINUE TO ATTACK AMERICAN "MANEUVERING"
AND KEEP UP CALL FOR PLO REPRESENTATION IN GENEVA.

1. PRO-GOVERNMENT "LE MATIN" HEADLINES AUG 6 "SYRIAN
REJECTION OF THE WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL IS NOT CATEGORICAL",
AND GOES ON TO OUTLINE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH SYRIA COULD
PARTICIPATE, NAMELY ON UNDERSTANDING THAT WORKING GROUP
MEETING WOULD NOT BE SUBSTITUTED FOR FULL GENEVA MEETING
WITH PLO REPRESENTATION. PAPER ALSO REPORTS ARAFAT'S
STATEMENT FOLLOWING MEETING WITH SADAT ECHOING SAME LINE.
GROMKO'S PLANNED VISIT TO EGYPT REPORTED IN SEPARATE FRONT-
PAGE ITEM. INFORMATION MINISTRY'S "AL ANBA" QUOTES FROM ABU
DHABI PRESS THAT VANCE VISIT IS "DISAPPOINTING" AND "FAR
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PAGE 02 RABAT 04342 061113Z

FROM WHAT THE ARABS EXPECTED".

2. ON OPPOSITION SIDE, USFP'S "LIBERATION" IN EDITORIAL
SIGNED HASSAN GUENNOUNI QUOTES EXTENSIVELY FROM CARTER'S
DECLARATIONS ON NORMALIZING RELATIONS AND THE NEED FOR A
PALESTINIAN HOMELAND, BUT CONCLUDES THAT THIS IS ALL
"MANEUVERING" DESIGNED (1) TO WEAKEN THE UNITY OF THE ARAB

FRONT, (2) TO WEAN MODERATE ARAB STATES FROM HARD-LINE POSITIONS BY OFFERS OF FINANCIAL AND MILITARY AID AND (3) TO KEEP THE PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON WEAK BY PERPETUATING INSTABILITY THERE. "AL ALAM" (ISTIQLAL) EXPRESSES FEARS OVER BEGIN'S REACTIONS TO THE SYRIAN REJECTION OF THE SADAT PLAN, AND SAYS FINAL HOPE HAS TO BE PLACED IN VANCE'S RETURN VISITS TO DAMASCUS AND ALEXANDRIA. SAME PARTY'S FRENCH-LANGUAGE DAILY "L'OPINION" CRITICIZES HUSSEIN'S WEAK STAND, HIS EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS OVER THE ABILITY OF THE PLO TO EXERCISE REAL LEADERSHIP OF THE PALESTINIANS, AND HIS SEEMING INTENT TO REVIVE THE CONCEPT OF A "UNITED ARAB KINGDOM".
MOFFAT

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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